REMARKS

The above claim amendments are presented in order to remove multiple claim dependencies, so as to reduce the required filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jitsuko YAMAGUCHI et al.

Charles R. Watts

Registration No. 33,142

Attorney for Applicants

CRW/asd Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 January 12, 2004